

Continuous process for preparing sugar alcohols

Abstract

5 A continuous process for preparing sugar alcohols by catalytic hydrogenation of an aqueous solution of a saccharide, which forms the corresponding sugar alcohol on hydrogenation, in the presence of a ruthenium catalyst which is obtainable by:

10 i) single or multiple treatment of an amorphous silicon-dioxide-based support material with a halogen-free aqueous solution of a low-molecular-weight ruthenium compound and subsequent drying of the treated support material at below 200°C,

15 ii) reducing the solid obtained in i) with hydrogen at from 100 to 350°C,

step ii) being carried out immediately after step i), which comprises, before the hydrogenation, bringing the aqueous saccharide solution to be hydrogenated into contact with the support material.